



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release February 21, 1985

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE DESIGNATES NONTOXIC SHOT ZONES FOR 1985-86 WATERFOWL HUNTING SEASON

Portions of 30 States, including 59 national wildlife refuges, have been designated as nontoxic (steel) shot zones for the 1985-86 waterfowl hunting season, the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today.

The purpose of the nontoxic shot zones is to help prevent lead poisoning in ducks, geese, and other waterfowl. Waterfowl are known to get lead poisoning from spent lead shot, which they swallow while consuming seeds or grit.

The final rule, published in the February 12, 1985, Federal Register, describes the geographic boundaries of the 1985-86 nontoxic shot zones and lists the national wildlife refuges where nontoxic shot is required. As required by law, the Service has already requested and received approval from the States for implementation and enforcement of nontoxic shot zones in these areas.

The Service is continuing to gather information and may issue another rulemaking in late February or early March that would cover proposals from several States that are considering additional nontoxic shot zones and several national wildlife refuges where monitoring studies indicate lead poisoning is a problem.

In addition to these nontoxic shot zones, the Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed additional areas as nontoxic shot zones to protect bald eagles from lead poisoning. Bald eagles sometimes feed on sick, crippled, or dead waterfowl and may get lead poisoning from ingesting lead shot contained in the bodies of these birds. Proposals for nontoxic shot zones to protect eagles were published in the February 13 Federal Register and include all or portions of 30 counties in 8 States.

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Generally, the 1985-86 nontoxic shot zones are similar to those enforced in 1984, except for some minor boundary changes and corrections in New York, Indiana, and Illinois; removal of zones in North Carolina, except those on national wildlife refuges; addition of zones in Tennessee, Wisconsin, and Nebraska; and the addition of a zone at Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge, Vermont.

Nontoxic shot will be required for waterfowl hunting during the 1985-86 hunting season in portions of the following States, including the national wildlife refuges listed below:

ATLANTIC FLYWAY: Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont.

MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY: Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, Wisconsin.

CENTRAL FLYWAY: Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas.

PACIFIC FLYWAY: Oregon, Washington.

National wildlife refuges:

ATLANTIC FLYWAY

Delaware: Bombay Hook, Prime Hook.

Florida: Chassahowitzka, Loxahatchee, Merritt Island, Lower Suwannee.

Georgia: Eufaula, Savannah.

Massachusetts: Parker River, Plum Island.

New Jersey: Barnegat and Brigantine (now called Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge).

New York: Iroquois, Montezuma.

North Carolina: Cedar Island, Mattamuskeet, Swanquarter.

Pennsylvania: Erie.

Vermont: Missisquoi.

MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY

Alabama: Eufaula.

Illinois: Crab Orchard.

Iowa: Upper Mississippi River, De Soto.

Louisiana: Lacassine, Sabine.

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Michigan: Shiawassee.

Mississippi: Hillside, Mathews Brake, Morgan Brake, Noxubee, Panther Swamp.

Minnesota: Tamarac, Sherburne, Upper Mississippi River, Minnesota Valley.

Missouri: Swan Lake, Mingo.

Ohio: Ottawa.

Tennessee: Hatchie, Lower Hatchie, Cross Creeks.

Wisconsin: Trempealeau, Necedah, Upper Mississippi River, Horicon.

CENTRAL FLYWAY

Kansas: Quivira.

New Mexico: Sevilleta, Bosque del Apache, Bitter Lake, Las Vegas.

Oklahoma: Washita, Sequoyah.

Texas: Anahuac, Big Boggy, Brazoria, McFaddin, San Bernard, Texas Point, Matagorda Island.

PACIFIC FLYWAY

Oregon: Ankeny, Baskett Slough, William L. Finley.

Washington: Ridgefield.

In addition to these national wildlife refuges, many units of the Refuge System known as waterfowl production areas are also designated as nontoxic shot zones.